GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3241
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether alongwith the postal (mail) services, the telegraphic services also face the problem of being economically unviable;;

(b) if so, whether Fax/e-mail facilities have made telegrams redundant in the present day context; and

(c) if so, the plans on the anvil to diversify the existing staff and infrastructure in both Telegram/Telex/Teleprinter segments?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) Postal (mail) services are running with deficit of revenue, but this is not due to volume of mail traffic. The rate of postal services are decided based on various factors such as user profile, price elasticity, demands of various segments of society etc. The postal services also have to fulfil the social objective of being affordable for all the segments of the society. To achieve this, pricing of the postal (mail) services is done in such a way that it is less than its cost of operations.

So for as telegraphic services are concerned, they are treated as part and parcel of telecommunication services like village panchayat telephones (VPTs) and hence the question of evaluating revenue in terms of traffic does not arise.

(b) No, Sir. Fax and E-mail facilities have not made telegrams redundant since there still persists a demand for telegraph services. However, the E-mail facility has an impact on the telegram traffic. The fax traffic itself is under decline.

(c) The infrastructure and staff are part of the telecommunications services and suitable adjustments are made as and when required.